

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOWW

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO, US

SUBJECT: US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS AND THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

REF: BELGRADE 4900

1. AMBASSADOR SHOULD SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH DEPUTY
FOREIGN SECRETARY PETRIC AT AN EARLY DATE TO REVIEW US
OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO CURRENT MIDDLE EAST
CRISIS AND SOLICIT EXPLANATION OF RATIONALE FOR YUGOSLAV
MILITARY ALERT AND MILITARY EXERCISE. PURPOSE OF MEETING
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IS DEMONSTRATION OF CONSTRUCTIVE NATURE OF US BEHAVIOR
THROUGHOUT CONFLICT.

2. SINCE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES OCTOBER 6, US EFFORTS HAVE

BEEN DIRECTED TOWARD TWO OBJECTIVES: THE CESSATION OF THE FIGHTING AND THE CREATION OF CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR PROGRESS TOWARD A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAELIS.

3. IN PURSUING THESE OBJECTIVES, US TOOK INITIATIVE OCTOBER 7 TO CONVENE THE UNSC, CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE UNSC AND OTHER INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS, AND EXERCISED RESTRAINT IN SHIPMENT OF FURTHER ARMS TO MIDDLE EAST DURING INITIAL PERIOD OF THE CRISIS.

4. WHILE US WAS ENGAGED IN THESE INTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS AND EXERCISING RESTRAINT IN SUPPLY OF ARMS TO AREA AT A TIME WHEN ISRAELI FORCES WERE ON DEFENSIVE, THE MODERATE SOVIET AIRLIFT OF ARMS TO EGYPT AND SYRIA WHICH HAD BEGUN OCTOBER 10 QUICKLY REACHED SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTIONS. AFTER REPEATED REQUESTS TO USSR NOT TO EXACERBATE THE SITUATION, US CONCLUDED IT HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO BEGIN RAPID RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL. THIS RESUPPLY, BEGUN ON OCTOBER 13, WAS DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN THE MILITARY BALANCE IN MIDDLE EAST IN FACE OF THE RESUPPLY ACTIVITIES OF THE USSR.

5. AT SAME TIME THAT WE INITIATED OUR RESUPPLY EFFORT, WE INFORMED USSR OF OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN WORKING OUT AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO CRISIS. US-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS CONTINUED AS ILLUSTRATED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW OCTOBER 20-22 AND JOINT US-SOVIET SUPPORT OF UNSC RESOLUTION 338.

6. WHEN CEASEFIRE FAILED TO TAKE HOLD OCTOBER 23, US SUPPORTED UNSC RESOLUTION (339) WHICH CALLED ON THE PARTIES TO CONFLICT TO OBSERVE CEASEFIRE, RETURN TO PLACES FROM WHICH RENEWED FIGHTING STARTED, AND INVITED UN OBSERVERS TO OBSERVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEASEFIRE.

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7. ON OCTOBER 24 EGYPT PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF US AND SOVIET FORCES INTO THE AREA OF CONFLICT IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT A CEASEFIRE. US DID NOT APPROVE THE SENDING OF SUCH A FORCE. VERY LATE THAT SAME DAY, US RECEIVED INDICATIONS THAT THE USSR MIGHT BE CONTEMPLATING THE UNILATERAL INTRODUCTION OF SOVIET FORCES INTO THE AREA.

8. US INFORMED USSR IT WAS UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO UNILATERAL INTERVENTION BY EITHER SUPERPOWER. AT SAME TIME, US INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT AN AUGMENTATION OF EXISTING UN OBSERVER FORCE INCLUDING SOME US AND SOVIET PERSONNEL. WE MADE CLEAR OUR VIEW THAT FUNCTION OF SUCH A FORCE WOULD REMAIN SOLELY SUPERVISORY WITH PRIMARY TASK BEING ACQUISITION OF RELIABLE INFORMATION REGARDING

COMPLIANCE OF THE PARTIES WITH THE CEASEFIRE.

9. AS A PRECAUTION, PRESIDENT NIXON ORDERED CERTAIN ALERT MEASURES IN US MILITARY FORCES AROUND THE WORLD EARLY OCTOBER 25. PURPOSE OF THESE MEASURES WAS TO DISSUADE USSR FROM UNILATERAL ACTIONS WHICH WOULD HAVE CONSTITUTED A GRAVE THREAT TO WORLD PEACE.

10. US ACTIVELY SUPPORTED OCTOBER 25 UNSC RESOLUTION (340) SETTING UP A UN EMERGENCY FORCE TO BE COMPOSED OF PERSONNEL TO BE DRAWN FROM ANY MEMBER STATE EXCEPT PERMANENT MEMBERS OF UNSC.

11. WE HAVE STRESSED PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY OUR CONVICTION THAT THERE MUST BE COMPROMISE ON BOTH SIDES IF PERMANENT PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST IS TO BE ACHIEVED.

12. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT RECORD CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THAT US HAS PLAYED A RESPONSIBLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE THROUGHOUT THE CURRENT MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. OUR SOLE AIMS HAVE BEEN TO END HOSTILITIES AND LAY GROUNDWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO A LASTING SETTLEMENT. WE ASSUME THAT YUGOSLAVIA, AS A NONALIGNED COUNTRY, AGREES WITH US VIEW THAT INTRODUCTION OF MILITARY FORCES OF GREAT POWERS INTO THE AREA OF CONFLICT WOULD NOT BE IN INTEREST OF PEACE AND STABILITY OF MIDDLE EAST.

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13. AMBASSADOR SHOULD THEN INDICATE THAT US WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS PETRIC MIGHT MAKE CONCERNING THE PERCEPTIONS AND CALCULATIONS WHICH LED THE GOY TO TAKE ACTIONS IT TOOK IN VARIOUS STAGES OF CRISIS AS WELL AS HOW, IN GOY VIEW, THESE ACTIONS ARE DESIGNED TO CONTRIBUTE TO ITS PEACEFUL RESOLUTION. US WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ANY INDICATIONS PETRIC MIGHT GIVE CONCERNING THE PURPOSE OF THE YUGOSLAV MILITARY ALERT AND THE CONTINUING MILITARY EXERCISE SOUTH OF BELGRADE (YOU SHOULD NOT IMPLY WE CONSIDER YUGOSLAV ALERT AS TRIGGERED BY THE US ALERT).

14. IN COURSE OF DIALOGUE WITH PETRIC YOU SHOULD SEEK OCCASION TO EXPRESS OUR VIEW THAT YUGOSLAV STANCE SINCE INCEPTION OF CRISIS HAS BEEN UNDILUTEDLY PARTISAN WITH NO INDICATION YUGOSLAVIA HAS SOUGHT TO INDUCE RESTRAINT OR ENCOURAGE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. YOU SHOULD INDICATE OUR LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF YUGOSLAV ATTACKS ON US MOTIVES AND ACTIONS WHICH HAVE APPEARED TO US TO LACK OBJECTIVITY OR DUE CONSIDERATION OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING TO ACCOMPLISH - AND TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH OUR CONCEPT OF NON-ALIGNMENT. YOU SHOULD SEEK TO DRAW CONVERSATION AROUND TO YUGOSLAV ROLE IN SECURITY

COUNCIL, EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR POSITIVE OUTCOME,
TOWARD WHICH YUGOSLAVIA PARTICIPATED, OF UNSC RESOLUTIONS
IN MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, BUT DRAWING ON USUN 4361 TO EXPRESS
DOUBTS YUGOSLAV DELEGATION NOW CONTRIBUTING TO CONSTRUC-
TIVE RESOLUTION OF SYG'S PROBLEMS IN CARRYING OUT SC
RESOLUTIONS. SEEK, IF POSSIBLE, TO ELICIT CLEAR EXPOSI-
TION OF YUGOSLAV INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS UN DELEGATION AND
INDICATION OF YUGOSLAV READINESS TO CONSULT WITH USUN
IN EFFORT TO FACILITATE SYG'S ROLE. KISSINGER

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